

## Message Text

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SCI/SA:JSAMPAS

EUR/EE:RHOUSTON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

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E.O.11652:NA

TAGS:OSCI,TECH,TO

SUBJECT: US-ROMANIAN COOPERATION IN ATOMIC ENERGY

REF: BUCHAREST 2717

1. DURING LUNCHEON MEETING, JULY 2, HILL AND MITRAN DISCUSSED ROMANIAN DESIRE TO ENTER INTO NEW AND EXPANDED NUCLEAR ENERGY AGREEMENT. HILL USED AS GUIDELINE FRIEDMAN LETTER OF APRIL 4 FOR DISCUSSIONS. MITRAN OPENED WITH REHASH OF ROMANIAN NEED FOR NEW INSTRUMENT, STRESSING UPGRADING OF U.S.-ROMANIAN RELATIONS AND CORRESPONDING NEED IN U.S.-ROMANIAN NUCLEAR COOPERATION. MITRAN ADDED THAT HE HAD A DEEP PERSONAL INTEREST IN A NEW AGREEMENT SINCE HIS TOUR IN WASHINGTON WOULD CONCLUDE THIS COMING FALL AND THAT HE PERSONALLY WANTED TO ASSURE THAT THERE

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WOULD BE A "WINDOW THROUGH WHICH ROMANIA COULD COOPERATE

WITH THE U.S. IN NUCLEAR ENERGY." MITRAN POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS ALSO THE POLITICAL LEVEL THAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AND EMPHASIZED THAT A NEW AGREEMENT SHOULD BE CONCLUDED BEFORE MAY NPT NEGOTIATIONS. SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD SHOW UNCOMMITTED NATIONS THAT THE BIG POWERS, AND IN PARTICULAR THE U.S., ARE WILLING TO SHARE THEIR NUCLEAR KNOWLEDGE WITH NPT SIGNATORIES.

2. HILL REMINDED MITRAN THAT ROMANIAN INITIATIVES UNDER THE PRESENT AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN MINIMAL, POINTING OUT, FOR EXAMPLE, DECLINING NUMBER OF ROMANIAN SCIENTISTS TO VISIT USAEC LABORATORIES. MITRAN REPLIED THAT THE PRESENT AGREEMENT MERELY REPRESENTED THE FIRST GENERATION OF COOPERATION. NOW IT IS TIME FOR A SECOND GENERATION WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE REAL COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR SCIENCE. WHEN HILL REQUESTED SPECIFICS CONCERNING WHAT MITRAN CONSIDERED TO BE A MEANINGFUL AGREEMENT, HE REFERRED ESSENTIALLY TO THOSE ITEMS PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED TO VAN HEUVEN (SEE VAN HEUVEN MEMCON OF MARCH 6). HILL ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF THESE PROPOSALS, NOTED THAT THEY WERE MORE SUGGESTIVE THAN ANALYTICAL, AND AGAIN PRESSED FOR SPECIFICS. MITRAN REPLIED THAT THE ROMANIANS ARE INTERESTED IN COOPERATING WITH THE U.S. IN FAST BREEDER REACTORS, FUSION TECHNOLOGY, AND REACTOR SAFETY. HILL DOWNPLAYED THE POSSIBILITY OF COOPERATION IN THESE AREAS CITING REASONS CONTAINED IN FRIEDMAN LETTER. MITRAN SEEMED TO ACCEPT UNLIKELIHOOD OF COOPERATION IN FIRST TWO AREAS; STATING THAT THEY COULD BE PUT ON THE BACK BURNER FOR THE TIME BEING. WITH RESPECT TO NUCLEAR SAFETY, HOWEVER, MITRAN STRESSED THAT THE ROMANIAN AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE A SOVIET POWER REACTOR WAS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ONLY AND UNTIL SOVIETS COULD PROVIDE PROPER SHIELDING FOR NUCLEAR PORTION OF THE PROPOSED PLANT NO PURCHASE WOULD BE MADE. AT THIS POINT, MITRAN LAUNCHED INTO WHAT APPEARED TO BE HIS CENTRAL THEME: ROMANIA HAS MADE A MAJOR DECISION TO GO NUCLEAR AND DOES NOT WANT TO RELY SOLEY ON USSR. ACCORDINGLY, THE ROMANIANS ARE PRESENTLY TALKING WITH FRANCE, CANADA, UK AND US TO SEE WHAT KIND OF AGREEMENTS INVOLVING NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY CAN BE REACHED. ROMANIAN EXPECTS THAT THESE AGREEMENTS WOULD LEAD TO ROMANIAN BREEDER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND FUSION POWER PLANTS. MITRAN ENVISIONS WESTERN ADVISORS AND CONSULTANTS IN ROMANIA AND THE WESTERN CREATION OF ROMANIAN NUCLEAR CADRES TO PUT THESE PLANS FOR NUCLEAR POWER GENERATION INTO EFFECT. THEREFORE, IF THE U. S. WERE TO SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY, IT WOULD MEAN SUBSTANTIAL PURCHASE OF AMERICAN NUCLEAR PRODUCTS AND CONCURRENT RISE OF AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN ROMANIA.

3. IN RESPONSE HILL OBSERVED THAT, IN HIS PERSONAL VIEW, SUCH A PRECOMMITMENT BY ROMANIA TO BREEDER AND FUSION POWER WITHOUT NECESSARY GROUNDWORK COULD PREMATURELY OBLIGATE TREMENDOUS OUTLAYS OF ROMANIAN FINANCIAL AND SKILLED MANPOWER RESOURCES. HILL REEMPHASIZED THE AEC'S POSITION WITH RESPECT TO COOPERATION IN THESE AREAS WHILE RECOGNIZING ROMANIAN CONCERN ABOUT FUTURE SOURCES OF ENERGY IN ROMANIA. IN THIS CONTEXT, HILL MENTIONED THAT PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION CREATING ERDA COULD SIGNIFICANTLY EXPAND AEC'S ROLE IN THE R&D OF NON-NUCLEAR ENERGY SOURCES. AT THIS, MITRAN BRIGHTENED AND MENTIONED COAL DEPOSITS IN TRANSYLVANIA AND TURHENIA IN ADDITION TO GEYSERS IN THE CARPATHIANS, ALTHOUGH HE WAS UNABLE TO ELABORATE.

4. SINCE MITRAN WAS UNABLE TO SUPPLY OTHER THAN MOST GENERALIZED AREAS OF COOPERATION FOCUSING ON BREEDER AND FUSION TECHNOLOGY, HE PROPOSED A USAEC TEAM VISIT ROMANIA OR VICE VERSA TO DISCUSS SPECIFICS. HILL COUNTERED WITH SUGGESTION THAT, AS FIRST STEP, SCNE FORWARD DETAILED PROPOSALS THROUGH EMBASSY AND TAKING INFO ACCOUNT AEC'S VIEWS WITH RESPECT TO BREEDERS AND FUSION. AEC WOULD REVIEW PROPOSALS ON BASIS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND SO INFORM SCNE. IF ROMANIAN PROPOSALS CONTAINED AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, THEN AS SECOND STEP, ROMANIAN TEAM WOULD BE WELCOME TO DISCUSS FURTHER DETAILS FOR NEW AGREEMENT.

5. MITRAN AGREED WITH THIS VIEW AND STATED HE WOULD PASS IT ON TO BUCHAREST. SISCO

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